AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

CLAIM LISTING

Please consider the following amendments to the claims of the present application as set forth below. In accordance with the PTO's revised demand format, changes are shown by brackets (for deleted matter) or underlining (for added matter).

Claim 1 (previously presented): A method for using at least one computer to process contingent commitments relating to at least one business venture involving one or more agents, comprising:

receiving at the computer a request from at least one of the one or more agents to participate in a computer-mediated decision-making group;

updating a database, the update includes information about the one or more agents that include contingent commitments between the one or more agents, and rules for processing said contingent commitments to discover solutions, wherein the contingent commitments include at least one modal operator or quantifier.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, further comprising submitting the information about the one or more agents to the database, wherein the information about the one or more agents includes privacy filters that can be removed only by said one or more agents.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, further comprising submitting the information about the one or more contingent commitments to the database, wherein the information of said one or more agents is controlled by privacy filters that can be removed only by said one or more agents.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein said processing said contingent commitments to discover solutions include:

processing said contingent commitments to discover binding, non-binding, subject to vote, or subject to future contingencies solutions.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 wherein said receiving at the computer the request includes:

receiving at the computer at least one contingent commitment.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 wherein the processing said contingent commitments to discover solutions include:

converting one of said solutions into a binding agreement among the one or more agents or a subset of the one or more agents.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 further comprising:

receiving an identifier specifying form of payment and account information to be used in providing payments related to computer-mediated decision-making group participation and/or transactions arising from solutions.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The method of claim 7 wherein the receiving the identifier specifying form of payment and account information to be used in providing payments related to computer-mediated decision-making group participation and/or transactions arising from solutions include:

receiving the identifier specifying the form of payment as, at least one of, the following: credit card, debit card, Paypal™, c2it™, checking account transfer, or other electronic funds transfer.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The method of claim 7, wherein the receiving the identifier specifying form of payment and account information to be used in providing payments further comprising:

receiving an express authorization to charge said account for said computer-mediated decision-making group participation.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The method of claim 9 wherein said receiving the express authorization comprises:

receiving the express authorization from one of the group including: a credit card issuer, a debit card issuer, a bank, or other electronic funds transfer system sponsor.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 wherein said using the at least one computer to process contingent commitments relating to at least one business venture include at least one from the group of:

using the at least one computer to process a computer-mediated decision-making process among a plurality of parties concerning the price of a collection of goods and/or services;

using the at least one computer to process a computer-mediated decision-making process among a plurality of parties concerning a non-price scalar value;

using the at least one computer to process a computer-mediated decision-making process relating to a collection of goods and/or services;

using the at least one computer to process a computer-mediated decision-making process among a plurality of parties relating to venture capital investing;

using the at least one computer to process a computer-mediated decision-making process among a plurality of parties relating to a joint venture undertaking;

using the at least one computer to process a computer-mediated decision-making process among a plurality of parties relating to the development of intellectual property;

using the at least one computer to process a computer-mediated decision-making process among a plurality of parties relating to internal corporate strategic planning;

using the at least one computer to process a computer-mediated decision-making process among a plurality of parties concerning the scheduling of one or more meetings, events, or processes;

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using the at least one computer to process a computer-mediated decision-making process among a plurality of parties concerning the early adoption of new products and/or services;

using the at least one computer to process a computer-mediated decision-making process among a plurality of parties concerning disposition of funds for charitable purposes;

using the at least one computer to process a computer-mediated decision-making process among a plurality of parties concerning conduct of central bank policy;

using the at least one computer to process a computer-mediated decision-making process among a plurality of parties concerning governmental or inter-governmental policy-making; and

using the at least one computer to process a computer-mediated decision-making process among a plurality of parties relating to group activities.

Claim 12 (previously presented): A computer-based system for processing contingent commitments, comprising:

means for receiving a request for a plurality of agents to participate in a new or existing computer-mediated decision-making group; and

computer-based means for submitting an update to a database storing information about at least one of the plurality of agents, contingent commitments, and rules for processing information within the database pertaining to said contingent commitments to discover outcomes that satisfy the contingent commitments, wherein the contingent commitments include at least one modal operator or quantifier.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A method for providing a valuation estimate, the valuation estimate pertaining to one or more quantities, said method comprising:

performing one or more calculations at the request of one or more agents to estimate a value of the one or more quantities, said one or more calculations comprising:

selecting one or more models;

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selecting one or more sets of inputs;

selecting one or more entities;

further selecting a multi-dimensional error reduction by selecting from the above selected items at least two of the following: a) a plurality of the models, b) a plurality of the sets of inputs, c) a plurality of the entities, or d) a plurality of the agents;

performing the one or more calculations utilizing one or more computers or computing mechanisms using at least two of the following: a) a plurality of the models, b) a plurality of the sets of inputs, c) a plurality of the entities, or d) a plurality of the agents [said models, said input sets, and said entities], wherein the calculations provide the multi-dimensional error reduction; and

calculating averages for each of at least two of the following: a) a plurality of the models, b) a plurality of the sets of inputs, c) a plurality of the entities, or d) a plurality of the agents [said models, said input sets, and said entities] to accomplish the multi-dimensional error reduction.

Claim 14 (previously presented): A method for using one or more computing mechanisms by two trading parties to determine a mutually acceptable price for one or more trading items between a first agent and a second agent, the method comprising:

notifying the first agent by said computer of an opportunity to determine a mutually acceptable price for the one or more trading items with the second agent;

receiving by said one or more computing mechanisms data related to the determining the mutually acceptable price between the first agent and the second agent; and

performing a calculation using the one or more computing mechanisms to determine whether the determining the mutually acceptable price between the first agent and the second agent results in the mutually acceptable price.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The method of claim 14, wherein the receiving by said one or more computing mechanisms data related to the determining the mutually acceptable price comprises:

receiving by said one or more computing mechanisms data related to the determining the mutually acceptable price associated with a collection of goods, services, or other assets and/or liabilities, wherein the assets can be either tangible or intangible.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The method of claim 14, wherein within the receiving by said one or more computing mechanisms data related to the determining the mutually acceptable price between the first agent and the second agent, one of said first agent or second agent is a buyer and a second one of said first agent or second agent is a seller.

Claim 17 (currently amended): A method for using at least one computer to make safe disclosures, comprising:

performing one or more computer-based calculations at the request of one or more agents to estimate the value of a quantity, said one or more computer-based calculations comprising

selecting one or more models;

selecting one or more sets of inputs;

selecting one or more entities; performing one or more calculations using said models, said input sets, and said entities;

selecting a multi-dimensional error reduction by selecting from the above selected items at least two of the following: a) a plurality of the models, b) a plurality of the sets of inputs, c) a plurality of the entities, or d) a plurality of the agents;

calculating averages for <u>at least two of the following: a) a plurality of the models, b) a plurality of the sets of inputs, c) a plurality of the entities, or d) a plurality of the agents</u> [each of said models, said input sets, and said entities] to accomplish said multi-dimensional error reduction utilizing one or more computers or computing mechanisms;

calculating the median, mean, mode, or standard deviation;

determining a mutually acceptable price for one or more trading items between two agents, said determining the mutually acceptable price for the one or more trading items comprising:

receiving by said at least one computer a request from an agent to determine the mutually acceptable price with another agent;

notifying an agent by said at least one computer of an opportunity to determine the mutually acceptable price with another agent,

receiving by said at least one computer data related to the determining the mutually acceptable price for the one or more trading items between two agents; and

performing a calculation to determine whether the determining the mutually acceptable price for the one or more trading items produces a price acceptable to said agents.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The method of claim 17, wherein said performing one or more computer-based calculations comprise: performing at least one networked-computer calculations, further comprising transmitting data from at least a first computer to at least one other device.

Claim 19 (previously presented): A method comprising:

a)   maintaining a database for managing contingent commitments by maintaining a database storing information, the information pertaining to existing agents, contingent commitments, and rules for processing said commitments to discover outcomes that satisfy the contingent commitments, wherein the contingent commitments include at least one modal operator or quantifier; and

b)   providing a valuation estimate, the valuation estimate providing an estimate as to one or more quantities by performing one or more calculations at the request of one or more agents to estimate the value of a quantity, selecting a multi-dimensional error reduction by selecting from the above selected items at least two of the following: a) a plurality of the models, b) a plurality of the sets of inputs, c) a plurality of the entities, or d) a plurality of the agents, wherein the estimate accomplishes the multi-dimensional error reduction.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The method of claim 13, wherein the performing the one or more calculations comprise: performing the one or more calculations using at least two

of the following: a) a plurality of the models, b) a plurality of the sets of inputs, c) a plurality of the entities, or d) a plurality of the agents [said models, model weighting factors, said input sets, input set weighting factors, said entities, and entity weighting factors]; and wherein the performing one or more calculations are performed on weighted averages of at least one of the following: a) a plurality of the models, b) a plurality of the sets of inputs, or c) a plurality of the entities [said models, said input sets, and said entities], respectively using at least one of the following: [said] a) a plurality of model weighting factors, [said] b) a plurality of input set weighting factors, or c) a plurality of [said] entity weighting factors.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The method of claim 13, wherein the performing one or more calculations at the request of one or more agents to estimate a value of the one or more quantities comprise:

performing one or more calculations at the request of one or more agents to estimate a value of the one or more assets or liabilities.

Claim 22 (previously presented): Computer readable media having computer readable instructions that when executed by a processor causes the processor to perform a method for determining a mutually acceptable price for one or more trading items between two agents or groups of agents that includes information that is maintained confidential to each agent from the other agent, said determining the mutually acceptable price for the one or more trading items comprising receiving at said computer a request from an agent to determine the mutually acceptable price with another agent, receiving at the computer data related to determining the mutually acceptable price between two agents, and performing a calculation to determine whether the price is acceptable to said agents.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The method contained on the computer readable media of claim 22, further comprising safely disclosing by both parties their true trading strategy.

Claims 24-27 (canceled)

Claim 28 (previously presented): The method of claim 14, further comprising facilitating real-time communication between the first agent and the second agent before, during, or after the negotiation session.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the using at least one computer to process contingent commitments relating to at least one business venture comprises:

using at least one computer to process contingent commitments relating to one or more operating companies.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the using at least one computer to process contingent commitments relating to at least one business venture comprises:

using at least one computer to process contingent commitments relating to one or more private investment opportunities.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the contingent commitments produces one or more contingent solutions.

Claim 32 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the using at least one computer to process contingent commitments relating to at least one business venture comprises:

using at least one computer to process contingent commitments relating to at least one from the group of pension funds, institutional money managers, venture capitalists, angel investors, and other qualified investors.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, further comprising sending an update notification from the computer to those agents in the computer-mediated decision-making group according to agent-definable criteria, said update notification is in response to the update, wherein the update notification comprises:

an indication that a new agent has joined the computer-mediated decision-making group;

a description of solutions that are discovered by processing of the contingent commitments according to the rules of the database, with an indication of solution type, for each such solution;

information about the new agent; and

information about one or more contingent commitments of said new agent.

Claim 34 (previously presented): The method of claim 14, further comprising notifying the first agent and the second agent of the outcome of the determining a mutually acceptable price.

Claim 35 (previously presented): The method of claim 14, wherein said receiving at the computer a request from at least one of the one or more agents comprises:

receiving at the computer a request from at least one of the one or more agents requesting to choose different units of value.

Claim 36 (previously presented): The method of claim 14, wherein said receiving at the computer a request from at least one of the one or more agents comprises:

receiving at the computer a request from at least one of the one or more agents requesting to assign serial weights to successive rounds of a computer-process.

Claim 37 (previously presented): The method of claim 14, wherein said receiving at the computer a request from at least one of the one or more agents comprises:

receiving at the computer a request from at least one of the one or more agents requesting to assign paired serial weights to successive rounds of a computer-process.

Claim 38 (previously presented): The method of claim 14, wherein one of said agents is an employee, and any other of said agents is an employer of the employee.

Claim 39 (previously presented): The method of claim 36, wherein said receiving at the computer a request from at least one of the one or more agents comprises:

receiving at the computer a request from at least one of the one or more agents relating to an employee's compensation.

Claim 40 (previously presented): The method of claim 14, wherein said receiving at the computer a request from at least one of the one or more agents comprises:

receiving at the computer a request from at least one of the one or more agents relating to an online marketplace.

Claim 41 (previously presented): The method of claim 19, further comprising:

determining a mutually acceptable price for one or more trading items between two agents, said determining the mutually acceptable price for the one or more trading items comprising notifying an agent by said computer of an opportunity for determining the mutually acceptable price with another agent, receiving by the computer data related to the determining the mutually acceptable price between the two agents, performing a calculation to determine whether the determining the mutually acceptable price produces a value acceptable to said agents.